insisting that the Indian farmers should grow vegetables and flowers instead of foodgrains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that not only our eco-system is likely to be affected but also the small foodgrain dealers, farmers, women and the downtrodden classes would have to starve as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that the developed countries are likely to establish their monopoly over foodgrains as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the remedial measure Government are contemplating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) There is no proposal for growing of horticultural crops including vegetables and flowers through World Bank assistance.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

(i) Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan.

(ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE). Under these Schemes assistance is being provided for development of horticulture including vegetables and flowers. Besides, Government is contemplating to launch National Horticulture Mission so that further focus could be given for development of these crops.

KVKs in NER

4656. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up, so far, in the North Eastern Region during the last three years;

(b) the details of target fixed for the setting up of KVKs in all the districts of NER during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) During the last three years

(2002-03 to 2004-05), 20 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) were set up in the North Eastern Region (NER), besides the 16 KVKs existing earlier.

(b) The Government has approved the setting up of KVKs in all 77 rural districts of NER (as per India 2002), including the remaining 41 districts during Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) Site Selection Committees have been constituted to examine the logistics for setting up of new KVKs in NER.

Garlic Production

†4657. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing garlic inspite of a good yield of garlic in the country;

(b) if so, the gap between production and consumption of garlic in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing the yield of garlic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government does not import Garlic. A demand of 5.79 lakh tonnes exists for garlic crop against production of 6.19 lakh tonnes (2004-05) in our country.

(c) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplamentation/Complementation States' Effort through Work Plan" under which promotion of production of garlic also included in the programme of Integrated Development of Vegetables.

Involving markfed as broker between farmer and CCI

4658. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government would increase minimum support price of cotton from Rs. 1760 per quintal to Rs. 2500 and groundnut from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 to strengthen domestic industries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.